

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 2, A method of maintaining a pressure difference in a heat treatment plant for a liquid food product, in which, in a production disruption, an insufficiently treated product is caused to recycle by a return stroke, wherein:

a pressure difference after a return stroke is maintained in that a sufficiently treated product is enclosed in a product conduit on a downstream side of the plant; and a space for the sufficiently treated product there is restricted, wherein the sufficiently treated product is enclosed between a return stroke valve and a shut-off valve, and characterized in that wherein the space for the sufficiently treated product is restricted in that a gas is introduced into the product conduit.

4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that wherein the gas is led into the product conduit between the return stroke valve (12) valve and the regenerative section (6) a regenerative section of the downstream side (14) side of the plant.

5. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the gas is led into the product conduit in the shut-off valve (20) valve.

6. (Currently amended) ~~The method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that~~
~~the space for the product is restricted~~ A method of maintaining a pressure difference in a heat
treatment plant for a liquid food product, in which, in a production disruption, an
insufficiently treated product is caused to recycle by a return stroke, wherein:

a pressure difference after a return stroke is maintained in that a sufficiently treated
product is enclosed in a product conduit on a downstream side of the plant; and a space for
the sufficiently treated product there is restricted in that a part of the product conduit (29)
consists of conduit comprises an expansive portion (27) portion which forms a throttle in the
product conduit (29) conduit.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the expansive portion (27) consists of portion comprises a pipe length (28) length
with an inner elastic wall (30) wall which expands in that gas or liquid is introduced into an
interspace (32) interspace between the pipe length (28) and the wall (30) length and the inner
elastic wall.